



Keep Household Moisture and Mold Under Control

FACT SHEET

For more information call
800-762-7077 or visit
focusonenergy.com

If you see moisture on your windows when the temperature outside drops, you are not alone. Occasional condensation or fog on windows is common in cold weather and usually is not a cause for concern. However, if the moisture stays on the window all day, drips off the glass and on to the window frame, or turns to ice, you should do something about it. If you don't, the moisture dripping on the window frames can cause damage to the wood.

More importantly, the water could be a sign that there is too much moisture in the air in your home. This can lead to mold problems on walls, in closets, on outside walls and other surfaces that tend to be cold.



Where does the water come from?

All air has some moisture in it. Warm air can hold more water than cold air. As warm air cools and contacts cold surfaces it condenses into water. The more humid the air and the colder the surface, the more likely water will condense on windows and walls.

The people and pets that live with you are adding moisture to the air all the time when they breathe, shower, and cook. This moisture contributes to the humidity level in your home.

Did you know?

Some people who suffer from asthma or allergies may have health problems related to mold.

What can you do to reduce moisture in your home?

Find hidden sources of moisture:

- Check crawl spaces or root cellars with exposed earth.
- Look for wet spots on ceilings or other signs of roof leaks.
- Look for leaks in the basement.

Reduce the amount of water you add to the air:

- Vent clothes driers outside.
- Use exhaust fans after showering or bathing.
- Cover pots when cooking.
- Store firewood outdoors.
- Reduce the number of houseplants.

Did you know?

Dehumidifiers are great for basements in the summer, but most dehumidifiers won't lower humidity enough to stop winter window condensation problems. They are also more expensive to use than exhaust fans and no more effective in the winter.

Bring in more outside air:

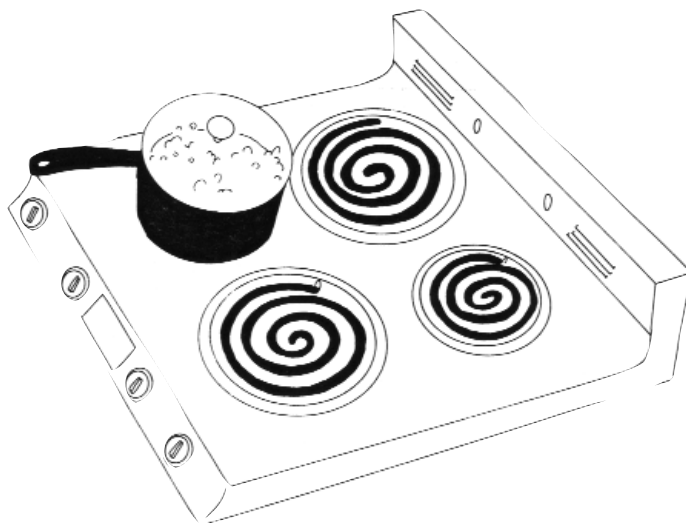
- Run a bathroom or kitchen exhaust fan.

Excessive window condensation can be an indication of other problems with your home. The most effective method to determine the source of the problem is to have your home tested by a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR consultant.



Are you eligible for help with energy efficiency improvements or heating expenses?

Qualifying Wisconsin residents may be eligible for assistance in making energy efficiency improvements to their homes or to receive help paying winter energy bills. To find out more about eligibility and the programs that are available contact 1.866.432.8947.



Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment, and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. For information about the Focus on Energy services and programs, call 1.800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com

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